

Cock Crow

***Newsletter of the country parishes
of the Diss Team Ministry***

DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

Issue No. 6

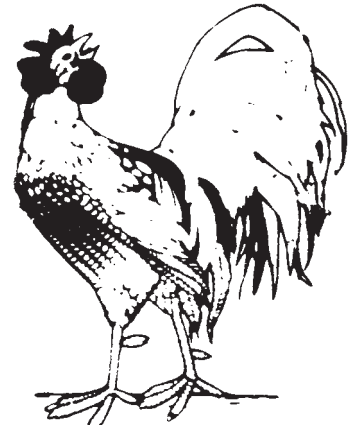


Photo: Pete Rowan

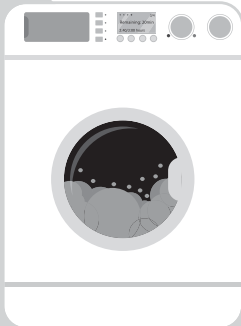
Christmas scene at the crib

From the North Lopham recent Knitted Bible Display. See page 20.

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Reflection on a turbulent year

How has the end of another year arrived so quickly? It seems only yesterday that we were enjoying the summer. And if we look back and ask how any New Year resolutions went, we may also be asking how yet another year has heard of “wars and rumours of wars”. Even one of the carols we sing at Christmas (“It came upon the midnight clear”, reflecting on the angels’ song of “peace on earth”) reminds us.



“Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has waited long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled two thousand years of wrong.
And warring humankind hears not the love-song which they bring;
Oh hush the noise of mortal strife and hear the angels sing!”

I always remember words written by Michael Ramsey, Archbishop of Canterbury through the equally turbulent ‘60s: “Christmas is no less Christmas and our joy is no less joyful because we are keeping Christmas with a very dark and troubled world around us... Our rejoicing is not an escape from life’s reality into a fancy realm of religion and festivity. Rather it is a joy that, as we face the world’s tragedy, we know that God has an answer for humanity: this is a time of hope”.

I wish you all a tranquil and joyous Christmas, and hope renewed in the New Year.

John Cruse, Team Vicar

The new logos in Cock Crow represent the eleven parishes in our Diss Team Ministry. Each parish has a colour of its own, symbolising their individuality, but are united as seen in the “stained glass” where they all come together.

**COCK CROW IS THE COUNTRY PARISH MAGAZINE
OF THE DISS TEAM MINISTRY**

To arrange Weddings or Baptisms contact the Diss Team Office on **01379 643783**. For other pastoral matters requiring a priest, contact one of the churchwardens, who will put you in touch with the appropriate individual or the Team Office. Diss Team Ministry www.dissteamministry.org.uk

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TEAM MINISTRY COLUMN

Our Retired Clergy

Our retired clergy friends are always ready to help out with services when required: The Wednesday Communion in St Mary's are always valued and the extra services during Remembrance and Christmas just would not be possible without them. This year, we are especially indebted to them following the departure of Rev Samuel and Linnea during our time of Vacancy.

It is good to welcome Rev Sandy Dutton back to their ranks; we wish Rev Chris Davidson well for the surgery on his knee, and hope he and Midge will soon be back in their own home, following the flooding!

Many thanks to all the group and best wishes for a Blessed and Happy Christmas Season, followed by good health in a Happy New Year 2024.

And

Even bigger thanks and good wishes to Rev John Cruse, for 'keeping the Benefice going' throughout the Vacancy, and to Alison in the Benefice Office for all the work she does behind the scenes... We are very grateful.



Recycling

Now is a good time to remind readers that our churches have boxes for used stamps! Most of us receive more post in December than in the rest of the year!



The contact for the Leprosy Mission has moved away from the area, so the stamps are now supporting our own **Air Ambulance**. Most of our communities have, or know of people who have relied on this service to get to hospital from the scene of an accident, on the roads or on specially difficult terrain, and the service is totally reliant on voluntary giving to keep its helicopters airborne. So, please save your stamps and pop them in the church boxes.

(Thank you too, to Rosemary Boutet who collects them and passes them on!)

FROM THE EDITORS

It's now fifteen years since we took joint responsibility for editing Cock Crow magazine which means this is the fifteenth Christmas message we've written. What can be said that hasn't already been said? We've talked about changes to production, we've been through a pandemic and its challenging aftermath, the magazine is now coloured etc, etc...

Cock Crow is still very much in the slow lane in the torrent of 'social media' but having observed recent revelations, is that such a bad thing? A leisurely turn through our pages reading measured and relevant material or a nerve

shredding battle with sound-bites, dodgy websites, 'click bait' and scammers on the web, what's not to like? The printed word is not dead yet!

Back to business! Our continued thanks go to our production team, our correspondents and contributors, our delivery team (*what weather they've had*) and our advertisers who all combine to keep this magazine going.

Season's greetings to all of them and to you, our readers.

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St John the Baptist Church

Our Church Harvest Festival was a really lovely occasion and our thanks go out to Hilary, Mary-Jane, Mary, Sharon and Sally for making the church look so beautiful. I'm pleased to say we had one of the largest congregations we have had for some time, including visitors from other parishes in our benefice. As always after our services, coffee was served.

On October 2nd we welcomed the children, staff, parents and grandparents of Bressingham School to their Harvest Festival. It was amazing and the highlight for me was hearing them sing 'Big Red, Combine Harvester' which many grandparents, like me,

will remember the school singing when our own children were there. The gifts they placed on and around the altar were taken to the food bank.

However, the day for me was really spoilt when I discovered that the alms box at the back of the church had been forced and any money, which would have been a pittance, stolen. The cost of the repair will be much greater than what was taken. The police have been informed.

Our church has appointed a new architect and his first job was to carry out the Quinquennial Inspection which was due in October. As a result we have had to fence off part of the north wall as the flints are loose in the wall. We have yet to receive the completed report.

Friends of Bressingham Church

On 14th October the AGM for the Friends of Bressingham Church was held. This was well attended and several decisions taken.

The 59 Club continues thanks to the hard work by Kay and Reg Brock. For £1 a week, payable 5 weeks at a time, the lucky number which corresponds with the National Lottery 'bonus ball' wins £10 on Wednesdays and £25 on Saturdays. Due to people moving away from the village we now have a few numbers available. Contact Kay on kayhbrock@gmail.com to get further details.

May I thank all those people who do take part

Winter Wildflower Walk and Talk

with wildflower expert
Stella Taylor

at

**BRESSINGHAM
CHURCH**

on Saturday

27 January 2024

at 12 noon

Soup and a roll will be served
£5 cash on the day

in the 59 Club which raises much needed money to keep our church going.

Finally our thanks go to Alison Dumbell for arranging to have the north side of the churchyard trimmed. This is a very generous and much appreciated donation. The south side and the burial ground have been cleared by the Community Service Organisation. Our thanks also go to Matt Bloom who very kindly provides a trailer for all the clippings.

Village Hall

The committee organised a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 6th October. For many years Brenda and Ken Webb have held this event at their home, however this year they are leaving the village to be nearer their grandchildren. They will be a very hard act to follow having raised thousands of pounds for this cause over the years. We will miss them very much. So, for the first time, the event was held in the village hall. The Village Hall Committee would like to thank all those who baked cakes, donated raffle prizes, helped set up and clear away afterwards. They also thank those who came and bought cakes and raffle tickets, ate cake and drank coffee and helped raise the excellent sum of £500. It is hoped to make this an annual event and they will try to live up to Brenda's example!



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St Andrew's Church

An enthusiastic crew decorated and cleaned the church ready for Harvest Festival, and how wonderful it looked, with huge dahlias, exuberant loves-likes-bleeding and greenery contributed by John Orford. A congregation of 37 came to the celebration service on 8th October, which was led by Sue Drake. Jenny Vere played the organ, and afterwards we all enjoyed excellent refreshments and chat. The collection raised £140 for church funds. Melanie Wildish continues to do great work with her jam sales, and so far £115 has been raised for the church. Driving through Fersfield has been a pleasure this summer. The flowers planted on the verge and the meadow by Anna, Hazel, Sheena and Gracie have flourished, it has been a wonderfully colourful display. John Brooke has kept the grass cut on the meadow, and Sue Cattermole has kept the graveyard tidy, both of which have been a battle in a year when the grass has never stopped growing. We are grateful to the Howell family and Dan Richardson who have cut the hedges around the church.

Our Christmas Carol Service will be on 20th December. We will clean the church on 6th December, and decorate it on 18th December in readiness. A thank you goes to Sharon for organising the cleaning and decorating (and



A colourful display of flowers at Fersfield Church

catering) brilliantly, making it fun for all the helpers, and ensuring that the church looks its best.



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Heading into Winter at Burston Recreation Ground

After the successful picnic event organised in late summer, the recreation park is moving into its autumn/winter maintenance period. Shortly the grass that is creeping onto the path will be sprayed to push it back from the path edge. A survey has been carried out of the tree saplings planted over the last two years and we now know how many need to be replaced. Fortunately, the Woodland Trust is donating trees for us to plant this coming winter. The portaloo has been removed for the winter but will be back next year ready for next spring and summer. The community orchard trees are now beginning to lose their leaves but not before they provided a crop of medlars, apples, pears, plums and quinces for local residents to harvest. As the park goes into its winter mode we will make sure that come next spring the meadow area will be coming alive with flowers, the playing field area will be ready for football, etc and all the footpaths will be available to enjoy the whole recreation area.

Burston Church Graveyard

Nestled within the conservation area at the heart of Burston is a hidden gem which many people drive or walk past daily. It caused a social media storm during the summer because it, along with several other similar sites, had been badly neglected; if you believed what was reported on local social

media groups. If you haven't recently walked around the churchyard I urge you to do so now, as a lot has changed in recent weeks and I hope to gain your support to continue with maintaining this final resting place for many of our villagers.

Burston's population from the 2021 census is 582, of which 327 are aged 18-64 and 161 aged over 65; 52% Christian, 47% no religion. Why have I mentioned this? Because I am appealing for twenty people to commit to adopting just six headstones each. If you do the maths that would be 120 headstones, the approximate number on the west side and rear of the church. Please note the word 'headstones' as grass cutting is a less important, although necessary, maintenance issue that will be dealt with separately.

During October the 'Conservation Scheme Area' was scythed and cleared. This part of the churchyard is left undisturbed as part of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust's 'saving Norfolk Wildlife for the Future' scheme and as such has an abundance of primroses, wild flowers and grasses which proliferate through spring and summer. *(Look for the plaque on the right of the path as you walk from the gate to the church porch.)*

To the left of the path are more recent graves and this area is the one which needs more regular attention, especially on the boundary with the Strike School. This year most of these graves had become inaccessible and invisible, a fault which has now been rectified due to those remarks that struck a real chord with me, an incomer to the village. I thought that



many residents might have tended their relatives' graves before moving away or retiring here from another part of the country leaving that responsibility to someone else. Wouldn't it be worthwhile to reciprocate this task here in our village? Perhaps our elderly residents dearly wish they were able to tend their loved one's grave but ill health or frailty prevent them. This is where those 20 people could make a community commitment to help whilst enjoying fresh air, gentle exercise and the sounds of nature around them.

If you have a pair of garden shears, a soft brush and a little time on your hands to keep a few headstones visible please contact me, Angela Belgrove angela@burstonandshimpling.org.uk or telephone **01379 741534**. If you regularly tend a grave and do not need this help, make contact and I will ensure the volunteers leave this to you to continue to do. I hope to hear from twenty of you soon.

Angela Belgrove

Burston and Shimpling Parish Council

An important part of the Conservation Area in Burston is Church Green, which is all that remains of the common land enclosed in the late 19th century. It is for the enjoyment of the public however, it is illegal to damage a Village Green and this includes by parking on it, as vehicles are prohibited. To make visitors aware of this some new signs have been erected. Please respect our Green by not driving or parking on it or allowing your dog to foul it.

Community resilience is about knowing who members of your community are and being able to help and support each other when an emergency happens. Anita Hughes is our coordinator and will do her best to put people who need assistance and those who can help in touch with each other. This is not a replacement for local responders (*for example police, fire & rescue*) but to mitigate the issues until appropriate measures can be taken. If you can offer help or need assistance, please contact Anita anita@burstonandshimpling.org.uk

Alison Wakeham (Chair)

Burston Primary School

We are excited to share the latest happenings at Burston Primary School, where our dedicated educators and enthusiastic students continue to thrive. Here's a peek into the exciting events that have been unfolding in our school over the past few months.

Forest School Adventures:

A Connection with Nature

At Burston Primary, we firmly believe in the importance of connecting our students with the natural world. We are delighted to report that all our students have been thoroughly enjoying their weekly Forest School sessions. Through activities such as scavenger hunts, nature walks, and wildlife observation, our students have been honing their observational and problem-solving skills.

Pangolins Class Museum:

Journey Through Ancient Civilizations

The students in Pangolins class have been hard at work putting the finishing touches on their class museum project. As the autumn term draws to a close, they are preparing to invite visitors to explore their fascinating exhibit featuring ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome.

Turtles Class:

Unveiling the Impact of Historical Figures

Meanwhile, in Turtles class, students have been on a journey through history by exploring the lives and legacies of historical figures who have made a lasting impact on our world. They have been studying the lives of inspiring individuals from various fields, such as scientists, activists, and leaders, to understand how these figures have shaped the world we live in today.

We are grateful for your ongoing support and interest in Burston Primary School. If you would like to visit our Pangolins class museum or learn more about the incredible experiences our students are having, please do not hesitate to reach out to us. Your participation and engagement are invaluable to us. We look forward to sharing more updates in the future. Have a wonderful and enriching autumn season!

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GISSING

Winter at St Mary's

Sunday, 12th November:

Remembrance. There was a brief service at the war memorial at 10.50am, with the reading of the names on the war memorial, the laying of wreaths, the playing of last post, the two minute silence and poetry readings and immediately following, there was a service in the church including hymns and appropriate readings.

Saturday, 9th December: The annual Christmas Fayre, sponsored by the 'Friends of Gissing Church', will be held in the church from 2 to 5pm. There will be stalls, a tombola, a raffle, the 'Tree of Remembrance' the Angel game, bell ringing in the tower and roasted chestnuts, mulled wine and refreshments.

Sunday, 17th December: The annual Christmas carol concert, with congregational singing, nativity readings and once again featuring the Gissing Singers, will take place at 11am.

Sunday, 24th December, Christmas Eve: There will be a service of Holy Communion in the church at 3pm.

Sunday, 31st December, New Year's Eve: 2024 will be rung in at midnight in the bell tower. Everyone is welcome to come and have a go at welcoming in the New Year.

Call for Churchyard Help

An enthusiastic group of volunteers have been doing sterling work in mowing, strimming and generally tidying up the churchyard in Gissing. They could use some help. If anyone has some extra time or interest in helping maintain this public asset in the centre of the village, please contact Avril Piersenne, who is coordinating the work, on **01379 674518**.

The Heart of Gissing

The autumn months saw a variety of events at the Gissing Community Building. Regular activities such as meetings of the Garden, Crafters, Bee and Reading Groups, Toddler Group mornings, Gissing Singers evenings and Dance and Yoga classes have continued to provide stimulus and social opportunities

for the local community in a warm, welcoming space during this often rather bleak time of the year.

The popular Gissing Café continues to serve up tasty, seasonal lunches – not to mention good coffee and cakes – and in December there will be a special Christmas Café. Scheduled for Friday the 8th, it will be offering some very Christmassy menu options and the building will be looking its festive best.

For those who like the idea of a pre-Christmas theatre visit but don't want to travel far, the Gissing Arts Group will be showing a filmed version of one of the National Theatre's most popular productions on December 15th. "Skylight" stars Bill Nighy and Carey Mulligan and promises to be a real festive treat!

And getting 2024 off to a splendid start, there'll be a very tempting New Year's Day Brunch. Tickets will be £12 for the three-course menu with a choice of main course and unlimited tea or coffee. There'll be the opportunity to buy Prosecco or Bucks Fizz. To book, please email heartofgissingevents@gmail.com or ring **01379 674272**.

Gissing Children's Centre

We are enjoying the autumn term and the lead up to Christmas which is always sparkly and magical. The children have been learning how to deal with water in the landscape as we go on our regular walks, having to cross ditches and flooded footbridges – all a good lesson in



resilience, problem solving and making sure, above all, what we do is safe. We always have people to thank and this time we would like to particularly thank Vicky Jordan for supplying numerous pumpkins for our children for Hallowe'en activities and last but not least, Daralyn Hammond, who has created wonderful bespoke stories for us to read to the children. Our annual Witchy Woodland Fayre with Harry Potter theme held on the very sunny Saturday 14th October was a great success and everyone who came along seemed to really enjoy going around the trail and taking part in mini challenges such as playing quidditch and learning wand manoeuvres. **We are planning our next event for just before Easter 2024 when we hope to revisit Alice in Wonderland. Watch this space.**

Linda Nash

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St Andrew's School

What a busy term we have had at St Andrew's! So far, Butterflies class have loved learning about their topic 'Wheels and Wings'; how people first attempted to fly and how aeroplanes have evolved. They made an aeroplane out of cardboard boxes and worked together to paint it by mixing colours and adding different patterns. A great time was had sitting in the 'aeroplane' and acting out take-off, flying and landing.

KS2 have been out and about problem solving and developing resilience at Thorpe Woodlands. It was fantastic to see the children challenging themselves; every one achieved something they didn't believe they could do!

KS2 have immersed themselves in the Stone Age, debating the relative importance of hunting, building shelter, finding water and making clothes as well as creating their own model Stonehenge. They have also been taking our novel, Wolf Brother, and innovating their own writing based on the events and themes from the book.

We had a wonderful Harvest Festival, despite the rain. It was lovely to see our school community come together to celebrate the hard work and perseverance of our farmers and producers and join in with our hymns and reflections. We studied the story of Ruth and Naomi and their perseverance facing the trials and tribulations which they endured.

We will continue to explore the value of generosity during the period of Advent. The children have shown amazing understanding of what it means to be generous and have been learning about St Francis of Assisi.

We also held a reading café where we came together as a school family to share the book 'The Arrival'. Both children and families alike enjoyed the freedom and creativity which comes with a book which only contains pictures.

SIAMS inspection

We were visited by a SIAMS inspector at the end of October. We are so proud that the

inspector found that 'St Andrew's C of E Primary School is living up to its foundation as a Church School' and described us as '**a bright and hopeful environment in which pupils and adults shine**'. We are so proud that our children have, again, shone; they truly are magnificent and worthy of the recognition they receive within the report. It also highlights the impact of the contributions made by the wider community, including the local church, to the lives of our children and we thank them so much for the time and support they so generously give. The full report can be found on our website and at SIAMS Inspection Reports / The Church of England. We look forward to what the rest of our academic year holds and continuing to build on the foundations we've laid.

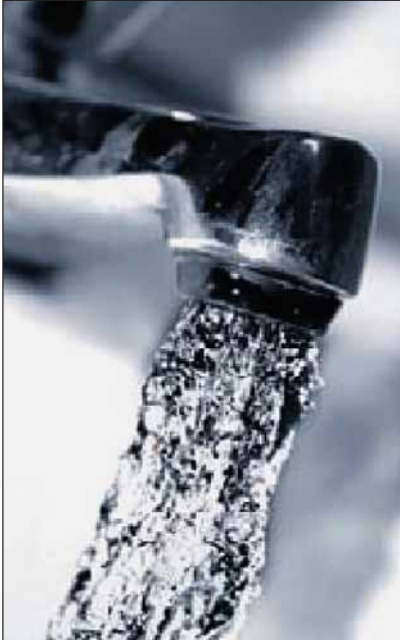
If you wish to make an appointment to visit, please contact the school office on **01379 687253** or by email at **office@st-andrews-pri.norfolk.sch.uk**. We would love to hear from you!

Lophams' Ladies

Members have enjoyed 'getting creative' during the Autumn meetings – we had free rein to decide on a subject for a greeting card in October, then a wonderful range of materials to make it, assisted by Ann when required. In November, Julie and her assistant demonstrated cake decorating using butter icing. The effective use of ingredients that are readily available to us all was great to see.

The December meeting, on 5th will have a Christmas theme and include a quiz, fun raffle and carols to sing as well as seasonal refreshments. New Year's Day is a Monday so we have moved our January meeting to the 9th. This will be a Games afternoon, starting with a mini Beetle Drive, to test those artistic skills!! The annual business meeting will be held in February, when we will discuss future plans – including the venue for a lunch in March.

To find out more, please come and join us, visitors are always welcome at our meetings, usually in the Village Hall on the first Tuesday of the month, at 2pm. For more information, contact Jennie on **01379 687679**.



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Garden Club

The Lophams' garden club meets on the 1st Thursday of each month, with a series of garden visits during the summer months. We are a small friendly group with a varied programme and welcome new members. Please contact Tracie Foulger on **07834 568916** or Suzanne Odell on **07841 197426** for further details.

Art Group



We've bidden farewell to one of our members, off to be near family in warmer climes, who donated her surplus art materials for sale, proceeds going to 'Guide Dogs'. £72.50 was raised and 'Birdie' her current trainee came along to say thank you.

On the art front we have tutors booked until 2025 now on all sorts of subjects, thanks to Tony who has been working hard for us on that front. The Dec 23 and Jan 24 ones are on pastels and oils respectively.

For further information about the group 'phone or text Tim on **07854 900103**.

Walkers

Well done everyone for completing our October walk. It was slightly longer than usual but a smashing walk nonetheless! We crossed our local heath and forest and yet much of it was still new to many of us.

We probably won't walk in December so January will be your next chance to join in.

For details of this group email either; **birdybird231@gmail.com** or **peter.smith.1136@gmail.com**

Lophams' Village Hall

Bonfire and Firework Event

The Lophams were hit by the dreaded Ciaran storm at the beginning of November. For only the second time ever, the Bonfire and Firework evening had to be postponed from the planned date. The field was completely waterlogged by the Friday, so impossible to use for parking all the cars. It was a wise decision, as there was steady rain on the due date too! The event will now go ahead on 25th November, probably just before you are reading this, but the publicity team has been working tirelessly to get the message across to the villages and local communities, and there is an extra couple of weekends to get rid of 'burnables' so the bonfire should be enormous! As always, we owe a huge debt of gratitude to Jim and the team who build the fire and then clear the site after the event, and to those who work tirelessly to ensure a steady supply of food and drink, or fun items for the children, and then clear up afterwards!

Farmers' Market

The **Farmers' Market** for December will go ahead on the fourth Saturday this year – **23rd December** is the perfect time to get your perishable for the big day. As usual, breakfast will be served from 9am until 12 noon, using produce from our stalls. The **January Market** will be on **27th**. We are always on the lookout for new vendors who can supply locally produced goods that are not currently available for sale, so do come along and sample everything that is on offer. All details from Mike Shipperlee on **01379 687235**.

The Village Hall Lottery

The 14th year of the Lophams' Village Hall Lottery completed in October 2023!

Since the start, over £37,000 has been distributed in prize money and well over £19,000 has been contributed to the Village Hall Development Fund. Sincere thanks from the hall management committee to all those



EVENTS AT SWT

Redgrave and Lopham Fen, nr Bressingham IP22 2HX

DECEMBER 2023 & JANUARY 2024

DECEMBER			JANUARY		
Weekend Wildlife Club Monthly club with wildlife-themed activities for 6-11 year olds.	Sat 9 Dec 10.30am-12.15pm	£5	Weekend Wildlife Club Monthly club with wildlife-themed activities for 6-11 year olds.	Sat 13 Jan 10.30am-12.15pm	£5
Young Naturalists Monthly session for 11-16 year olds to explore, investigate and learn about the wildlife and habitats of the Fen.	Sat 10 Dec 10.30am-12.30pm	£5	Young Naturalists Monthly session for 11-16 year olds to explore, investigate and learn about the wildlife and habitats of the Fen.	Sat 13 Jan 1.30pm-3.30pm	£5
Stained Glass Suncatcher Workshop	Sun 10 Dec 9am-12.30pm & 2pm-5.30pm	£55, including materials.	Needle Felted Puffin Workshop	Sat 20 Jan 10am-2pm	£38, including materials.
Holiday Club For unaccompanied 6-11 year olds. Wild play, games and activities. <small>Funded places available for Norfolk children receiving free school meals – please check the website.</small>	Thu 21 Dec 9am-3.30pm	£25 each, including a healthy, vegetarian lunch.	Talk: 'The changing wildlife of Redgrave and Lopham Fen: an historical perspective' by Helen Smith No need to book.	Tues 30 Jan 7.30pm	£3 (under 25s free), including refreshments.

Booking essential for all activities unless otherwise stated.

For further details and to book,
visit suffolkwildlifetrust.org or call **01473 890089**



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who have participated, your support has allowed us to make important improvements to the building and its surroundings. We are all enjoying the improved heating, especially without the need to put coins in a meter! And 'selling' surplus electricity back to the grid is keeping the net cost of power down considerably!

Please remember that our principal purpose is to maintain the fabric of the hall as an attractive venue for the use and benefit of local people and that the proceeds from the Village Hall Lottery are designated entirely for this. If you're not in the lottery but would like to join, please ring **01379 688183**, supply your contact details and you will be contacted to complete the formalities.

The draw for the **Christmas Bonanza** will take place at the Farmers' Market on **23rd December**. All those who have been 'in' for three months or more will be included – "it could be you!"

Recent prize-winners:

September Draw:

1st Prize of £156.00 – I Saunders;

2nd Prizes of £39.00 each – B Thorndyke and J Doust.

October Draw:

1st Prize of £154.00 – P Moralee;

2nd Prizes of £38.50 each – James Conquest and D Viner.

Regular Groups meeting at the Village Hall

Judo meets on Monday evening; details from Howard on 01379 688058.

Keep Fit is on Monday evenings, supplemented by **Yoga** on Wednesdays, and a session on Saturday mornings; all details from Rose Hill.

The Art Group meets on Wednesday mornings from 9.30am. Details from Tim 07854 900103.

Botolph's Bowmen meet on the field some evenings, and regularly on Sundays.

Monthly clubs include **Lophams' Ladies** and the **Garden Club**, usually in the first week.

Why not hire the hall for an event of your own?

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Contact details and hire rates are published on the website, or telephone 01379 687679.

The new modern booking process is working well; all details are on the website.



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SERVICES IN DECEMBER 2023

3rd: Advent Sunday	09.30	Holy Communion	North Lopham
	09.30	Morning Prayer	Tivetshall
	09.30	“Village Church”	Winfarthing
	11.00	Holy Communion	Diss
	11.00	Morning Prayer	Gissing
	11.00	Morning Prayer	Roydon
	17.00	Evening Prayer	Diss
10th: Advent 2	09.30	Morning Prayer	Winfarthing
	11.00	Holy Communion	Diss
	11.00	Advent Family Service	North Lopham
	15.00	Carol Service	Shelfanger
	15.00	Carol Service	Tivetshall
	17.00	Evening Prayer	Diss
15th: Friday	12.00	“Lunchtime Carols”	Diss
16th: Saturday	17.30	“Village Carols”	Roydon
17th: Advent 3	11.00	Holy Communion	Diss
	11.00	Carol Service	Gissing
	17.00	Carol Service	Diss
	18.00	Carol Service	Winfarthing
19th: Tuesday	19.00	Carol Service	North Lopham
20th: Wednesday	18.00	Carol Service	Fersfield
21st: Thursday	19.00	Carol Service	South Lopham
24th: Advent 4/Christmas Eve	09.30	Holy Communion	Shelfanger
	09.30	Morning Prayer	Burston
	11.00	Holy Communion	Diss
	15.00	Holy Communion	Gissing
	16.00	Crib Service	North Lopham
	16.30	Crib Service	Roydon
	17.00	Crib Service	Diss
	23.30	First Eucharist of Christmas	Diss
25th: Christmas Day	09.30	Holy Communion	Roydon
	09.30	Holy Communion	Bressingham
	11.00	Holy Communion	Diss
31st: Christmas 2	11.00	Holy Communion	Diss
	17.00	Evening Prayer	Diss

GROUP OF CHURCHES AND THOSE OF THE DISS TEAM MINISTRY

SERVICES IN JANUARY 2024			
7th: Epiphany Sunday	09.30	Holy Communion	Burston
	09.30	Morning Prayer	Tivetshall
	09.30	“Village Church”	Winfarthing
	11.00	Holy Communion	Diss
	11.00	Epiphany Family Service	North Lopham
	11.00	Morning Prayer	Roydon
	11.00	Morning Prayer	Gissing
	17.00	Evening Prayer	Diss
14th: Epiphany 2	09.30	Holy Communion	Gissing
	09.30	Morning Prayer	Winfarthing
	11.00	Morning Prayer	Shelfanger
	11.00	Holy Communion	Diss
	11.00	Family Service	North Lopham
	17.00	Evening Prayer	Diss
21st: Epiphany 3	09.30	Holy Communion	Bressingham
	11.00	Holy Communion	Diss
	11.00	Morning Prayer	Roydon
	11.00	Morning Prayer	South Lopham
	17.00	Evening Prayer	Diss
28th: Epiphany 4	09.30	Morning Prayer	Burston
	09.30	Holy Communion	Winfarthing
	11.00	Holy Communion	Diss
	11.00	Family Service	North Lopham
	17.00	Evening Prayer	Diss

★ ★ ★ **NEXT COPY DATE IS MONDAY 8TH JANUARY 2024 LATEST** ★ ★ ★
 Please send via your correspondents who will forward by email to the editors:
 vivienecwheeler@gmail.com or timcolyer@yahoo.co.uk

St Nicholas' Church

Recent Highlights

Shoebox Appeal: The response this year has been amazing – over 20 boxes will be delivered to the local drop-off point before mid November, to go to children in the Middle & further East in time for Christmas. This year, perhaps more than ever, it will be very important for those who have lost everything to know that there are people thinking of them and sending tokens of their love and support. Many thanks to all those who have helped!

Harvest Thanksgiving: The church was beautifully decorated for the Harvest Family Communion at the beginning of October. We were very pleased to have our Team Vicar, Rev John Cruse, with us to lead the worship. The non-perishable goods brought to the service were saved, to take to the Waveney Foodbank, after St Andrew's School Harvest

Service. Sadly, this occasion had to take place in school, as it was far too wet for the children to walk the short distance to church. The gifts from both services were delivered to the foodbank after half term.

Remembrance: Ceremony and service will be reported in the next issue.

Advent to Epiphany

The season will be celebrated with the extra services that have become the North Lopham routine, but with a few changes to timings, to enable the maximum number of people to take part. It would be wonderful to welcome new faces at any of these occasions... Does that mean YOU?

Advent Sunday Dec 3rd: Holy Communion at 9.30am, will also be the Toy Service, as it is just before St Nicholas' own day on 6th. Gifts for families in need from the local area will be taken to the Salvation Army for inclusion in their Hampers & Toys parcels. Please wrap gifts, and label with the age and sex for which they are intended. Thank you!

NORTH LOPHAM Knitted Bible Display

Over three years, knitters both local and more distant managed to create sixty scenes, bringing to woolly life stories from the library of books known as The Bible. The 'props' were mostly made of wood, but all the people and animals were knitted. Scenes include history, adventure, law and romance, from Genesis to Revelations, with characters from Abraham to Zerubbabel, all in chronological order. They were displayed round North Lopham Church, using the 'architecture' as appropriate background. Over four days, visitors came from all over East Anglia to enjoy the exhibition. Many said they had rediscovered stories long forgotten!



Parable of the Prodigal Son



Joseph and Brothers



Noah and Animals



Solomon's Wisdom

Family Advent Carols will be at 11am on 10th December. We will sing some of the wonderful Advent hymns, interspersed with the readings for the season.

Carols by Candlelight is on Tuesday 19th December at 7pm, with the church decorated for the season. Traditional Carols & Readings will be followed by seasonal refreshments and time to chat.

The Crib Service on Christmas Eve is at 4pm – a lovely time for families to share a moment of quiet before the busyness of Christmas Day. Do join us!

New Year's Eve is a fifth Sunday, so there will be one service for the benefice, at 11am in St Mary's Church in Diss.

Epiphany Sunday is 7th January. There will be Family Service at 11am, with the focus on the Wise Men and their gifts.

Epiphany Family Carols will be at 11am on 14th January – another chance to share beautiful music, and readings related to the season.

Monthly Pattern in 2024

The bimonthly Holy Communion for the first Sunday will continue while we are still in Vacancy – the next is on 4th February – so there will be an 11am Family Service on the alternate first Sundays... Do check the Services page for details.

Thanks and Good Wishes: At this special time of year, the churchwardens and PCC say a big Thank you to everyone who has helped in any way to care for our church and grounds, or has helped with outreach to the community and beyond during 2023.

We send seasonal greetings to you all, and very best wishes for a Blessed Christmas and good health to enjoy the coming New Year!

North Lopham Parish Council

Wednesday 8th November

Questions/comments from the public allowed after the closure of the formal meeting. The **ditch** issue behind the PO seems resolved; the **defibrillator service** is in hand and NLPC will take over **verge cutting** as their contractor is tidier and cheaper than NCC. A **Christmas Tree at the Mere** was approved

subject to any restrictions, paid for from community stall funds as were the **bulbs** recently planted along the verges. **Thanks to Lesley Bird** for organising these and for running the stall. **Thanks also to John Rednall** who voluntarily hired a machine and spent a day clearing Jubilee Lane. The **diseased ash tree** in the cemetery will be removed. **Kings HL flooding** best reported to NCC by individuals. Footpath irregularities have been reported and **village gates** will be reinvestigated as a possible method of reducing speeding. **Members of the public raised concerns about speeding**; restarting **Speedwatch**, more requests for **radar traps** and re-engagement with **SNAP** all mooted. **Next meeting** 10th Jan 2024

North Lopham Community Stall

Some of the money raised from sales of donated goods and produce has gone towards the purchase of 60kg of daffodil bulbs which have been planted throughout the village. Thank you to all those who turned out to help with the planting, we're hoping to see a pretty North Lopham come springtime.

Also, a first aid talk was held at The King's Head pub and a donation was given to the church.

North Lopham Charities

The North Lopham Charities were set up many years ago, for the relief of need or hardship among the residents of the parish. The funds are available to those of any age faced by unexpected financial problems – for example sudden big bills for heating the home, or costs associated with health problems, and also for young folk – meeting the costs of uniforms, books, equipment or travel to access educational courses, or supporting them with voluntary expeditions overseas...

We have had wonderful reports, including delightful photographs, from those we have been able to support in this way during 2023! Every case is considered sympathetically and in complete confidence. Anyone in need of help is urged to write to the Clerk, Mr Malcolm Birchall, at Meadow Farm, Meadow Lane, North Lopham.



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SOUTH LOPHAM

St Andrew's Church

Live Nativity Service at Christmas Elf Village

On Sunday 3rd December come and be a part of our Live Nativity with animals including sheep, donkeys and music.

Arrive at 5.30pm to dress up, costumes will be provided for any children who would like to take part.

Nativity will start at 6.00pm, The Elf Village will be open after the service, with light refreshments.

Harris Hog Roast and Florenco's Coffee will be at the Elf Village most Saturday and Sundays.



Christmas Elf Village

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Craft Fair

The Craft Fair in September raised over £900 for the Church, with lovely sunny days and lots of amazing crafts people including Diss Quilters, it was a friendly traditional village event for all to join in with, several people came 'home' to their village to support the event.

Heartfelt thanks to all those who helped get the venue ready, created posters, Kate and

Sharon for printing the posters for me for free, whether you helped for ½ hour or 2 days plus, or you bought something from our wonderful stall holders/ raffle ticket/ dropped a donation in the pot, climbed the tower or came in to see the Church. Thanks also to those who have given us ideas to improve it in the future and those who have offered to return and be a helper in the future, a wonderful community event. Thank You.

Rebecca

CAROL SERVICE

in St Andrew's Church

will be on

Thursday 21st December 2023

at 7.00pm

*Music with the Deneside Ramblers
and refreshments afterwards.*

There will be a **Morning Prayer Service** on Sunday 21st January 2024 at 11.00am.

The PCC would like to thank all the people who work so hard to look after St Andrew's Church and keep it looking so beautiful, the cleaners, the flower arrangers the team who look after the Churchyard and also to everyone who open the Church daily, thank you all. The PCC would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful new year.

South Lopham Parish Council

At the September meeting concern was expressed about parking on the **War Memorial Green**. Norfolk highways will be contacted about installing new bollards to prevent it. The 'phone box library is well used and a book donation box will be placed in the bus shelter. A defibrillator will be bought and installed at the White Horse and a solicitor appointed to act in the **purchase of a parcel of land on the Blo'Norton Road** from Breckland, also the **village noticeboard** has been repaired.

A proposal for a **village winter social event** will be discussed further at the **next meeting on 14th November at Lophams' Village Hall.**

South Lopham Estates Charity

(Registered Charity No. 221724)

Any South Lopham resident in need?

Part of the purpose of this charity is to give modest sums of money (say up to £100, but could be increased in appropriate cases) to residents of South Lopham who have a specific financial need.

We are particularly interested in helping young people with the expenses of education and training, including travel.

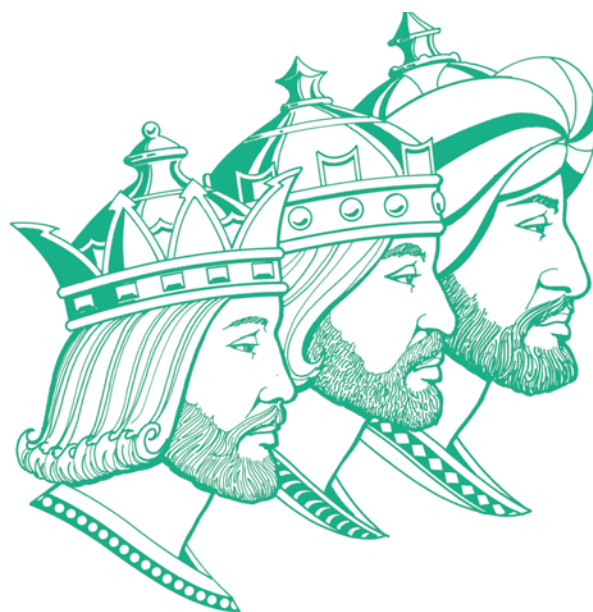
Other applications for consideration could include anyone suffering because of a bereavement or an unforeseen setback; or problems or expense because of illness in the family such as travel to a hospital or care home; or to assist any resident who has insufficient disposable income to enable him/her to enjoy the occasional treat; or any other cause which the Trustees consider deserving.

If you believe that you or someone in your family may qualify for such assistance please contact the secretary, Keeley Chapman, on 07734 069895 for further details and a simple application form for completion.

If you are aware of any other resident in specific financial need please let the secretary know so that we can approach that person to see if we can help.

Please be assured that all applications will be treated sympathetically and with complete confidentiality.

Issued on behalf of the Trustees





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All Saints' Church, Shelfanger

Very best Christmas and New Year wishes to all readers from the Shelfanger Church community. The Advent and Christmas seasons are upon us with all their wonders and all their stresses. In early December, two Christmas trees will be unveiled at the church to cheer us for the Christmas season. The interior tree will be a focal point for worshippers and the exterior tree will lift the spirits of passers-by with its ever-changing light display!

We shall celebrate with a village Carol Service in the church at 3pm on Sunday 10th December, here at Shelfanger, in a joint service with Winfarthing. In the midst of all the pre-Christmas business, do come and join in remembering the deeper meaning of Christmas time which touches us all.

Meanwhile, we recall a busy time for the church through the autumn. In early October the church held its traditional Harvest Festival. Your church was truly beautifully decorated with flowers and vegetables. A sizeable congregation sang the traditional hymns, heard the readings and enjoyed poems and entertainment and were able to leave with a bunch of flowers! We express much appreciation to Dr Sue Drake for leading the service, to Francis Coomber for his music, to Lorna Trudgill and her team for the fantastic flower arrangements, to Keith and Vicci Day and FOSC members for post-service wine and refreshments, to Graham for the take-away special blooms, and to all who read, led prayers or helped in any way. A collection of non-perishable goods was made and delivered to the Waveney Food Bank. Thank you to all who contributed generously to this. Saturday 16th September saw Graham's fantastic flower and vegetable sale at the bus shelter which raised £180 for church funds. Graham wishes to thank Roger and Jean, Lyn Collett, David Bailey and Tom Blake for all their support.

On Sunday November 12th, the parish honoured those who fell for our freedom with an Act of Remembrance at the parish tower memorial.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the parish, South Norfolk Council and Diss & District Railway Club. The service was led by Lay Minister, Mrs Jan Cruse.

By the time you read this, repairs to the tower louvres and the church's electrical system should be nearing completion. Thanks to FOSC for their financial and advisory help.

The parish memorial clock has passed its annual 'MOT' with flying colours. Well done and thank you to Bob Wale, Chris Brown, Peter Lough and Terry Green, our great team, who keep an eye on this intricate veteran machinery.

Friends of Shelfanger Church (FOSC)

Christmas is not far away and we are delighted to have helped to get the Church Tower Shutters renovated last month and made secure for generations to come. This has been a long time coming but together with the PCC committee we have been able to fund the works.

Our major winter fundraiser has been the Christmas Fayre held at the Village Hall where we were able to fill the hall with many festive crafters. We thank the Village Hall committee for allowing FOSC to use the hall and all its facilities enabling our lovely cake and savouries bakers to provide refreshments throughout the day to boost FOSC funds. There are many FOSC members and friends to thank for making this event successful and raising much needed funds to maintain our very special church building. We continue fundraising with our many loyal volunteers - thank you all.

Looking ahead, in the spring we hope to get the guttering and downpipes repaired or replaced to further protect the base of the church walls to reduce the current dampness inside.

An illuminated Christmas tree will again grace the front of the church for the festive period. Merry Christmas to everyone.

Keith Day
FOSC Chairman

For more information about FOSC contact Keith or Vicci Day on **01379 643945**. New FOSC members are always welcome – contact Karen on **01379 640042** or email **theloughs@sky.com**

Village Hall and Social Club

Various events took place in early Autumn. Including The Macmillan Coffee Morning on Wednesday, 27th September which raised a fantastic sum of £1,150. On Wednesday 1st November the hall was again packed with local well-wishers at an event to raise funds to support Archie, the grandson of Jackie and Andie Shaen-Carter. Guests enjoyed the huge range of cakes, pastries and other goodies and supported generously the massive raffle. At the time of writing, the provisional sum raised is around £700. Again, huge thanks to all involved in this very special fundraising event. For all Village Hall Christmas and New Year events go to Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/shelfangervillagehall> and Instagram: @ShelfangerVillageHall To contact the Secretary go to shelfangersecretary@gmail.com. For booking enquiries go to klegrys@live.co.uk

Village Hall and Social Club

On Saturday 29th October, the ghosts and ghoulies celebrated Hallowe'en in a lively and frightening afternoon. Real thanks to Amanda and all who combined to create this successful event.

The hall recently hosted two highly successful fundraisers. The Macmillan Coffee Morning on Wednesday 27th September raised a fantastic sum of £1,150. The bar, hall and even

outside tables were full to bursting as happy eaters enjoyed the fabulous selection of bakes. The stalls were busy as were our three sterling raffle ticket sellers. It was lovely to see such a great selection of prizes. The 'Guess my Name' baby doll and wardrobe was won by a lovely lady from Bressingham, who used the doll to raise even more funds at their coffee morning. Many thanks to all who baked, donated, tirelessly helped or, just as importantly came, even our two guests from Australia!

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For all Village Hall Christmas and New Year events go to Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/shelfangervillagehall> and Instagram: @ShelfangerVillageHall To contact the Secretary go to shelfangersecretary@gmail.com. For booking enquiries go to klegrys@live.co.uk





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Shelfanger Parish Council

A big thank you to all the villagers who helped other parishioners during the recent floods - let's hope that is the end of them for this year! A recent Environment Agency drop-in event at the village hall, open to all parishioners, gave everyone an opportunity to talk through various flood risk management topics in and around the village-a subject very much to the forefront of our minds.

Meanwhile, please keep an eye on the Parish Council website for updates on all our activities and events.

This just leaves me to wish you a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Elaine Tinsley
Parish Clerk

Email: shelfangerpc@gmail.com

The Friends of Boyland Common

At this time of year, the weather is often not on our side when we look to see what maintenance tasks can be tackled. However, two of our trusty group managed to cut back the willow saplings in one of the major ditches in mid-October. Many thanks to them and also, as ever, to Ivan Lord who keeps the paths on the common in good order.

There has been a significant development in our collaboration with South Norfolk District Council in that the Communities Assets Manager, Mr Jamie Henry, joined us in a site visit at the common in mid-September, taking note of deteriorating surfaces at the gates and the two insecure gate posts. By mid-October, work had been done to rectify these problems. A huge thank you to District Councillor, James Easter, for putting us in touch with the appropriate district council department. We will now be working on designing a replacement information board for the Common giving information on both the history of the site and the flora and fauna.

We will also be looking to address the problem of tree branches starting to encroach on the owl box. We have been assured by our 'Owl Man' that the box is still fit for purpose, but we will be asking for advice on what, if anything, needs to be done to ensure continued access. For more information about Boyland Common

contact Pam Ross, Chairwoman, of the 'Friends of Boyland Common' on **01379 643563**.

Shelfanger Allotments

Water shortage! At present we have to report no such thing! Every tank, butt and pail is full to overflowing. The sodden conditions make ground work difficult but holders are asked to muck-spread when they can and use the remaining heaps as soon as practicable.

Shelfanger Stitches

With warm weather extending well into autumn, the stitchers were able to enjoy Helen's garden for their fortnightly meetings. Now back inside, they are preparing for the **Shelfanger Christmas Fayre at the end of November**. If you would like to get in touch with your creative side, why not join them? The group, meets fortnightly on Thursday afternoons, and is happy to welcome new faces.

For further details please phone Helen on **01379 652199**.

Personalia

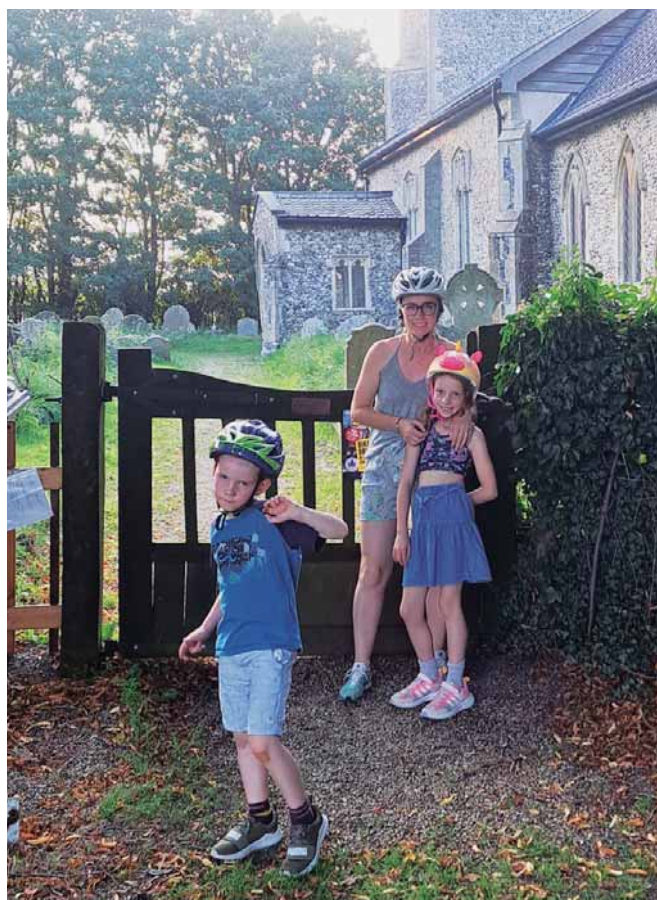
Very best wishes to all who are having a difficult time; particularly to Roy Norman at Hill Top and to Andie and Jackie Shaen-Carter, their son and daughter-in-law and their grandson, Archie. We are further thinking of all those who are enduring anxiety because of the recent high rainfall and risk of flooding.



Tivetshall St Margaret and St Mary

Well done Rufus raising £230 for St Margaret's Church with the sponsored cycle ride

It felt like the hottest day of the year, so Rufus Jackman (age 6) set off in the cool of the late afternoon to cycle for 12 miles around 5 churches in aid of Norfolk Churches Trust and Tivetshall St Margaret's Church. With the rest of his family as escort, Rufus visited both churches in Tivetshall, Gissing, and Burston church and chapel. Photographic evidence available at all locations! As Mum Becca used the Just Giving page set up for the NCT cycle ride as well as personal sponsors, Rufus raised a total of £230, half of which will be going down St. Margaret's drains. It's a good way of saying Thank You to Norfolk Churches Trust for their grant of £5000 earlier this year towards replacing gullies at the church. Thank You to all his generous sponsors, and Thank you to Rufus for his fine effort.



Rufus Jackman with Mum and sister at church gate

Tivetshall News

The church receives many visitors during the year and occasionally an entry in the visitor's book stands out. Doug Groom from California visited earlier in the year to visit the village where his Great Grandfather was born. He eventually moved to Canada where he lived until he passed away at 108 years old. Doug's Grandfather's name is on the war memorial so I have contacted Doug and informed him that his relative's name is read out each year on the 11th November, along with all of the others that died in the Great War. Doug left a generous donation in the safe which he has been thanked for.

A few months ago we stopped collecting postage stamps for charity but this has now restarted. We are collecting for East Anglia Air Ambulance, please put your old stamps in the box provided at the rear of the church leaving a small margin around them.

**ST MARGARET'S
TIVETSHALL**

**Annual Carols by
Candlelight Service**

**will be held on
Sunday 10th December
at 3pm**

**Hot Chocolate and Mince Pies
will be served at the end.
Please join us at this popular service.**

The memory tree will be in the church again this year in December, everyone is invited to add a 'candle' or star in memory of a family memory or friend.

There are no services over the festive period however the PCC wish all parishioners A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tivetshall Village Hall

Craft & Food Market held in October was a huge success. It raised over £800 for village hall funds. The Hall Trustees are conscious of the safety of users at public events. All our Trustees are DBS checked and will be completing Safeguarding training at the end of November.

We are currently planning our events for 2024. Under discussion and subject to confirmation are a second Quiz Night, Race Night, Curry Night, Live Music night and a grand summer fete. These will be advertised around the local villages on noticeboards etc. The hall is a popular venue for parties and private events. Availability of the hall, booking request forms and hire fees can be found online at www.tivhall.co.uk. Or email tivhallenquiries@gmail.com. The hall has a spacious car park and is adjacent to a large sports field with children's play equipment and an accessible swing.

Tivetshall Primary School

We are delighted to share with you the latest happenings at Tivetshall Primary School, where learning is not only a classroom affair but an exciting adventure that extends beyond the four walls.

Forest School Adventures for All!

One of the highlights of this term has been the introduction of weekly Forest School sessions for all our students. These sessions have brought an element of nature and outdoor exploration to our curriculum, allowing children to connect with the great outdoors, fostering a sense of wonder and curiosity about the world around them. The children have been experiencing nature first-hand, learning about the environment, wildlife, and teamwork, all while having tremendous fun.

Black Rhinos Class Museum

- A Journey Through Ancient Civilizations

The Black Rhinos class has been busy putting the finishing touches on their very own class museum. This museum is set to be a showcase of their extensive knowledge about ancient civilizations and the fascinating artifacts associated with them. From mummies to pottery, from historical clothing to tools, the museum will give our students a chance to share their newfound knowledge with their peers and family.

Penguins Class:

Learning from Historical Figures

Meanwhile, in the Penguins class, students have been delving into the world of history in a slightly different way. From inventors to activists, from artists to scientists, the Penguins class is learning about the contributions of figures like Marie Curie, Nelson Mandela, Leonardo da Vinci, and Amelia Earhart.

At Tivetshall Primary School, we are committed to providing an engaging and holistic educational experience for our students. We invite all parents, guardians, and fellow students to join us at the end of the autumn term for an exclusive visit to the Black Rhinos class museum. **Thank you for your ongoing support, which makes our school community thrive.**



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Winfarthing Parish Council

We now have a new Clerk, Karen Rix, who can be contacted by emailing winfarthingpc@gmail.com. A list of your councillors, meeting minutes etc can be found on Winfarthing Parish Council's website, also on the notice board near the village sign.

We meet on the first Monday of the month at Winfarthing Village Hall at 7.30pm other than January and August when we do not meet. We are pleased when members of our community attend our meetings and voice their concerns as we act on your behalf.

On Saturday the 4th November the Parish Council arranged for Tracy from the Air Ambulance to attend the Village Hall to train parishioners on how to access and use the defibrillator that is on the wall of the Fighting Cocks pub about 30 people attended, we were able to practice CPR and make ourselves familiar with how to operate a defibrillator.

Eric Cole

Tel: 01953 860209 Mobile: 07957 354280

Email: eric.cole@live.com

Winfarthing Saxon Project Update



I have to start this up update with a lot of "Thank You's". Firstly Thank You to all those who attended to Crime Evening at Winfarthing Village Hall on the 7th October. Thank You to Steve Gaskin who organised the evening along with his assistants Colin and Ellen. Thank you to all the people who donated a raffle prize as well as Tom for selling all the tickets on the evening. Thank You to Karen and David Rix and Karen Mackay for the mammoth task it took to organise the evening. Thank You to Katie Rix who turned her car into a mobile Fish 'n Chip delivery car

on the evening and safely delivering 84 portions of Fish 'n Chips all expertly wrapped and hot – very tasty. I am also pleased to announce that we made just over £951.00 on the evening, amazing.

As regards the project itself, we are in the process of setting up a Bank Account, I hope this should be sorted very soon. As soon as we have the bank account we can then finally submit the documents to register the Winfarthing Saxon Project as a Charity.

The committee are planning another Quiz which will be held in Winfarthing Village Hall on the 20th January, please note this date in your 2024 diary if you have one yet. Please look out for further details.

I end this update with another Thank You. I would personally like to thank all those involved in the WSP and well as all the committee members as who have help develop this project during 2023 – Thank You. I would like to end by wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I look forward to catching up again in 2024.

John Mackay

Saxon Project Chairman

Email: john@waratah.plus.com

Winfarthing Walkers

Our September walk saw 14 of us meet at the lovely Tyrells Woods off Wood Lane Pulham Market. It was a lovely day as we set off through the woods for a 5.5 mile circular walk. Once out of the woods we headed towards Wood Green Common then across to Morningthorpe Green and onto the delightful St Mary's Church in Shelton. Once we'd finished looking around we carried on to the Spot up to Ansons Lane and back to the start. Redgrave village was the setting for October where 11 of us went for a little over 5.5 mile walk in lovely weather again.

November we went to the UEA and Earlham Park for our last walk of 2023 as we don't walk in December. We will restart in January 2024. Please contact pat.childs@live.co.uk if you are interested in joining our group. You don't have to live in Winfarthing and we walk on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

From the Registers

FUNERALS

Robin Anderson	Diss	19.09.23
Amy (Joyce) Wilby	Roydon.....	22.09.23
Stephen Church (ashes)	Diss	25.09.23
Alan Crowest (Thanksgiving)	Diss	27.09.23
Eleanor Sambrook	West Suffolk.....	29.09.23
Trevor Eastaugh	Winfarthing.....	30.09.23
Flora Coleman	Diss	18.10.23
John (Jack) Smith	West Suffolk.....	27.10.23
Noel Mullinger	Diss	27.10.23
Stanley Walker Brooke	Diss	01.11.23




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All Saints' School, Winfarthing

The Dragonflies have had a very exciting start to the new Half term with the introduction of a new book in English called The Hedgehog. It is all about a Hedgehog called Max. After finding out his Auntie Betty got squashed by a car he wanted to find out how Humans cross the road without getting hit. We started by writing a diary entry from Max sharing his adventure on finding answers. In maths we are looking at addition and subtraction and the different methods we can use to work out our problems. In RE we are exploring the Nativity story and making bonfire pictures in art using tissue paper and chalk. We are also learning all about Guy Fawkes and what he tried to do. In Science we have moved on to our new topic, Everyday Materials and we started by investigating which materials are absorbent.

The Asteroids have had a good start to the term coming to the end of their book Wolf boy. The children have impressed with their writing of poems. They have also been very busy with adding and subtracting and learning about common factors. In French, we started to learn the classroom rules in french, *asseyez-vous!*

We learnt all about Stonehenge in History and how and when it was built.

In our whole school Messy Church afternoon, in preparation for Remembrance Day and our

Remembrance Service we made our own wreath to remember those fallen.

Unfortunately, the recent weather meant that we had some very exciting moments and two unexpected days where we moved learning on line for completion at home. We were lucky our sandbags worked, although at one point debated the merits of learning to canoe! We do hope none of our immediate neighbours or those locally were badly affected by the unexpectedly high amounts of water and our thoughts are with you if you were.

Preparation is now underway for our Christmas Production and we look forward to welcoming Mr Woolcott, Asteroids new class teacher.



Photo: Pete Rowan

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Holly's Hikes



Hello folks – well in the two months since I last put paw to keypad we have gone from days that were too hot for my lunch time ramble to the first frosts, misty mornings and now three floods! The first frost was lovely, grass all white and crunchy and a red ball of sun rising behind us turning all pinky/orange. Some of the mists have been really thick and human gets a bit spooked and likes me to stay close but usually it lies in bands and looks like someone has dragged a white paint brush across the landscape. I'm not too keen on the floods and I strongly object to going out in the rain – muddy puddles are ok but asking me to wade through tummy deep water twice in one walk was too much. I sat down in protest – Big mistake!

The darker mornings mean we have seen the Barn Owl again, human always stops to watch till it is out of sight. It's definitely been deer time. For nearly a week a group of either three or four were in the same spot each morning unconcerned by us passing, then just as suddenly they were gone. Seeing two ahead of us on a path between hedges, it wasn't till we got to where they had been, that we realised from the foliage just how big they were!

Things that have made human smile are – seeing the delicate pale lemon toadflax even though its the last wild flower of the summer. me finding a slim black beetle that turned into a mini scorpion and tried to sting my nose! Lots of dragonflies – she loves their colours, trying to catch grasshoppers that take a leap into the long grass and disappear. An elegant mother swan with her grubby looking cygnet at Frenze Beck. Catching sight of a cheeky squirrel trying to find a soft spot in our



lawn to bury its huge walnut. A tree trunk that is sporting a fabulous growth of fungi and after the rain wondering how blades of grass manage to hold so many water drops.

Well, take care folks, let's hope we don't have too much more rain but don't stay in – wellies on, get out and enjoy.

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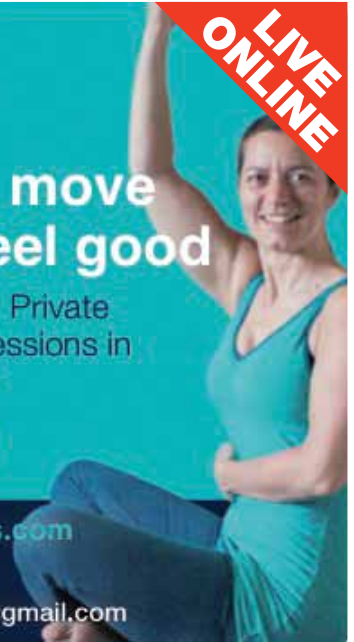


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